

Message Text

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SUBJ: ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

REF: STATE 126332

1. IN RESPONDING TO REFTEL EMBASSY WISHES EMPHASIZE U.S.G. INTEREST IN TEHRAN AND PROVINCIAL IRAN AMERICA SOCIETIES AND THEIR POTENTIAL ROLE IN ANY EXPANDED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEACHING PROGRAMS IN IRAN. TEHRAN IAS ACADEMIC CENTER ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES, FOR INSTANCE, ARE MAJOR SOURCE OF FINANCING TEHRAN IAS CULTURAL CENTER, WHICH LATTER IS SITE OF MUCH USIS PROGRAMMING IN IRAN. TEHRAN IAS, WHILE LARGELY SELF-SUPPORTING, IS RECIPIENT ANNUAL USIS GRANT.

2. IMPORTANT ALSO TO NOTE THAT BRITISH COUNCIL, PRIVATE EL TEACHING SCHOOLS, AND CONTRACTORS LIKE LANGUAGE HOUSE, ALL INFLUENCE IN LESSOR OR GREATER DEGREES TEHRAN IAS'S ABILITY TO BE SELF-SUPPORTING AND THUS, INDIRECTLY, THE SIZE OF THE YEARLY USIS GRANT REQUIRED IN SUPPORT OF USIS PROGRAMMING. PROVINCIAL IRAN AMERICA SOCIETIES ISFAHAN, SHIRAZ, MASHAD, AND AHWAZ LESS ABLE TO MEET THIS COMPETITION THAN TEHRAN IAS, AND YET THEIR EXISTENCE IMPORTANT TO USIS MISSION IN IRAN, AS THEY OFFER SITES FOR USIS PROGRAMMING.

3. WITH ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, EMBASSY FEELS PROPOSED SURVEY USEFUL. WHILE WE POSE NO OBJECTION TO BRITISH COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT IN SURVEY, BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN EVENTUAL TRAINING PROGRAMS INVOLVING
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SPECIALIZED ENGLISH WOULD BE COMPLICATING FACTOR FOR JOINT

COMMISSION PROJECTS BECAUSE OF CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES IN ENGLISH AND AMERICAN TECHNICAL VOCABULARIES.

4. USIS STAFF INSUFFICIENT UNDERTAKE PROPOSED SURVEY. HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO DEPARTMENT APPROACHING KAY ASTON, WHOM WE FEEL WILL QUALIFIED.

5. EMBASSY THUS VITALLY INTERESTED IN ROLE TEHRAN AND PROVINCIAL IAS'S COULD PLAY IN EXPANDED EL TEACHING PROGRAMS, INCLUDING ORIENTATION; TEACHER TRAINING; AND CONTRACT CLASSES FOR TRAINEES. APPRECIATE IT IF DEPARTMENT WOULD GIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION THIS ROLE IN ANY JOINT COMMISSION PROGRAMS. ALTHOUGH STAFF AND PRESENT FACILITIES INADEQUATE FOR ANY IMMEDIATELY EXPANDED PROGRAM, TEHRAN IAS ENJOYS EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN IRAN; HAS GOOD CORE OF PERSONNEL; GOOD, BASIC METHODOLOGY AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO IMPROVEMENT OF IRANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IAS COULD EASILY BE STRENGTHENED TO PROVIDE EXPERTISE FOR EXPANDING ITS OWN PROGRAMS AND THOSE OF PROVINCIAL IAS'S. IN WORDS OF USIA WORLD WIDE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONSULTANT, MARKET FOR ENGLISH IN IRAN, AND IRANIANS' ABILITY TO PAY, UNIQUE IN WORLD.

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES, THEREFORE, THAT ABOVE-MENTIONED ADVANTAGES TO USG, AND PARTICULARLY USIS, SHOULD RECEIVE PREFERENCE OVER ANY PRIVATE ROLE IN EXPANDING EL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY JOINT COMMISSION.

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